

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 450

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PREZIOSO, HAMILTON, BALDWIN, MARONEY, BEACH, AND
ROMANO

[Originating in the Committee on Military; Reported on
January 30, 2018]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17A-10-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to exempting recipients of the distinguished Purple Heart medal, the Navy Cross,
3 Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Cross, Bronze Star,
4 Silver Star, or Air Medal from payment of the vehicle registration fee for West Virginia
5 residents.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 10. FEES FOR REGISTRATION, LICENSING, ETC.

§17A-10-8. Vehicles exempt from payment of registration fee.

1 The following specified vehicles shall be exempt from the payment of any registration fees:

2 (1) Any vehicle owned or operated by the United States government, the State of West
3 Virginia, or any of their political subdivisions. The proper representative of the United States
4 government, the State of West Virginia, or any of their political subdivisions shall make an
5 application for registration for the vehicle and the registration plate or plates issued for the vehicle
6 shall be displayed as provided in this chapter;

7 (2) Any fire vehicle owned or operated by a volunteer fire department organized for the
8 protection of community property;

9 (3) Any ambulance or any other emergency rescue vehicle owned or operated by a
10 nonprofit, charitable organization and used exclusively for charitable purposes;

11 (4) Any vehicle owned by a disabled veteran as defined by the provisions of Public Law
12 663 of the 79th Congress of the United States, or Public Law 187 of the 82nd Congress of the
13 United States, or Public Law 77 of the 90th Congress of the United States; except for vehicles
14 used for hire which are owned by disabled veterans;

15 (5) Not more than one vehicle owned by a veteran with a 100 percent total and permanent
16 service-connected disability as certified by the Director of the Department of Veterans' Affairs of
17 West Virginia and not used for commercial purposes;

18 (6) Not more than one Class A or Class G vehicle, as defined in §17A-10-1 of this code,

19 owned by a former prisoner of war and not used for commercial purposes. For purposes of this
20 subdivision, the term “prisoner of war” means any member of the Armed Forces of the United
21 States, including the United States Coast Guard and National Guard, who was held by any hostile
22 force with which the United States was actually engaged in armed conflict during any period of
23 the incarceration; or any person, military or civilian, assigned to duty on the U.S.S. Pueblo who
24 was captured by the military forces of North Korea on January 23, 1968, and thereafter held
25 prisoner; except any person who, at any time, voluntarily, knowingly and without duress, gave aid
26 to, or collaborated with, or in any manner served any such hostile force;

27 (7) Not more than one Class A or Class G vehicle, as defined in section one of this article,
28 owned by a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor and not used for commercial purposes;
29 ~~and~~

30 (8) Vehicles registered in the name of community action agencies and used exclusively
31 for a Head Start program; and

32 (9) Not more than one vehicle owned by a recipient of the distinguished Purple Heart
33 medal, the Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Cross,
34 Bronze Star, Silver Star, or Air Medal: *Provided*, That the vehicle is not used for commercial
35 purposes and has a special registration plate for distinguished Purple Heart medal, the
36 Congressional Medal of Honor, Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying
37 Cross, Air Force Cross, Bronze Star, Silver Star, or Air Medal recipients referred to in §17A-3-
38 14(c)(7) and §17A-3-14(c)(20) of this code, and that the recipient is a West Virginia resident.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to exempt recipients of the distinguished Purple Heart medal, the Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Cross, Bronze Star, Silver Star, or Air Medal from payment of the vehicle registration fee for non-commercial vehicles of West Virginia residents.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.